



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

MICHAEL M. CLINE
State Coordinator

JANET L. CLEMENTS
Deputy Coordinator

L. RALPH JONES, JR.
Deputy Coordinator

10501 Trade Court
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713
(804) 897-6500
(TDD) 674-2417
FAX (804) 897-6506

Disaster Field Office

7800 Carousel Lane • Richmond, VA 23294

FEMA-1502-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #1

Tuesday, December 16, 2003

1. Situation

A severe storm system moved into the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 18 and 19, 2003 dumping up to 4.28 inches of rain in 12 hours resulting in flash floods through the southwestern part of Virginia. Two young children in Buchanan County died when their home was washed away by a flash flood. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to single-family residences, manufactured homes and private access bridges. Several apartment buildings with major damage were also identified, as well as damage to sewer pipes and private wells.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Smyth and Tazewell, and the cities of Galax and Radford on November 20. After evaluations by Preliminary Damage Assessment teams, Governor Warner requested a federal disaster declaration on November 26. On December 9, a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1502-DR-VA) was granted to Virginia for Individual Assistance in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Smyth and Tazewell, and the city of Galax.

2. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ☐ Execute Commonwealth/Federal Agreement.
- ☐ Identify possible additional DRC locations and sequence of openings.
- ☐ Ensure safety and security of field staff.
- ☐ Begin strategic planning.

3. Response Activities

A. Transportation

- ☐ *As of COB December 15, 32 roads remain closed due to flooding.*
- ☐ At the height of the incident, approximately *213 roads were closed* due to flash floods.

4. Recovery Activities

A. Human Services

i. Teleregistrations

- ☐ On *December 15, 23* new applicants teleregistered for a total of *269* registrations at COB *December 15*. See Attachment 1 for teleregistrations by designated jurisdictions.

- ❑ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Lines are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- ❑ *The Teleregistration lines will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for the holidays.*

ii. **Small Business Administration** (as of COB 12/15/03)

	Issued	Received	#Approved	\$ Approved	Declined	Withdrawn	Pending
Home	<i>24</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
Business	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
EIDL	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
TOTAL	<i>38</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

iii. **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**

(a) **Housing**

- ❑ Temporary housing assistance disbursed to date – **\$223,664.47**
- ❑ More than **76** homes destroyed, **149** homes with major damage, **255** with minor damage and **128** homes affected. Losses estimated are at **\$10,283,389**. More than **47** businesses were affected by the incident, including **three** destroyed. Estimated losses amount to **\$2,681,000**.

(b) **Other Needs Assistance**

Total Referrals Received:	114
Total Referrals Approved:	0
Total Referrals Ineligible:	30
Total Referrals Withdrawn:	4
Total Referrals Pending	80

iv. **Disaster Recovery Centers**

(a) **Bluefield DRC**

- ❑ A DRC was opened at Kroger Plaza, Bldg. 713, S. College Ave. in Bluefield at noon on December 11. Operation hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m.
- ❑ Between December 11 through 15, **23** walk-ins visited the DRC.

v. **Disaster Unemployment Insurance**

- ❑ Individuals in the declared jurisdictions can submit Disaster Unemployment Assistance applications at the nearest Virginia Employment Commission office through **January 15**.

B. Mitigation

- ❑ *Mitigation strategy complete and being reviewed by FEMA Mitigation.*
- ❑ *NFIP staff making contact with affected jurisdictions to assure their understanding of the NFIP program.*
- ❑ *NFIP staff working with City of Galax to ensure their understanding of the NFIP program and to help them come into the program if they choose.*

C. Legislative Liaison

- ❑ *No constituent issues to report.*
- ❑ *Sent Legislative Advisory to members of Virginia General Assembly whose districts were in the designated jurisdictions on:*
 - *“Federal Disaster Assistance Available.”*
 - *“Opening of First Disaster Recovery Center.”*

D. Community Relations

i. Field Work

- ❑ *Three CR field teams deployed to declared jurisdictions. Distributing FEMA 1-800 fliers, FEMA DRC flyers and FEMA tri-fold information flier.*
- ❑ *DFO Security notified local law enforcement that CR is working in the area.*
- ❑ *Met with Tazewell Director of Emergency Management and Tazewell Town Manager to identify the areas within Tazewell County, which were hardest hit by the flooding. Literature distributed to Dial Rock and along Texas, Harmon, Walnut and Blacksburg streets; as well as, in the Falls Mill, Big Branch and Abbs Valley areas and the Town of Tazewell. Also distributed literature to 12 churches and various businesses.*
- ❑ *Met with Richland’s Police Department to identify damaged areas in Richland and Doran. Literature distributed at the Riverside Travel Park, Ray’s Trailer Park and along Fourth and Allegheny streets. Also distributed literature to one church and two businesses.*
- ❑ *Met with Bland Count Emergency Manager to identify the damaged areas. Distributed literature in the towns of Rocky Gap and Bastian.*
- ❑ *Met with Giles Assistant County Administrator to discuss damage locations in county.*
- ❑ *Distributed literature in the Grundy area of Buchanan County. Unsuccessfully tried to contact the family who lost the two children.*

ii. Community Meetings

- ❑ *December 17, 5:30 p.m. Giles County Admin. Office, 315 N. Main St., Pearisburg, VA 24134*

E. Public Affairs

i. Press Releases Issued

- ❑ *“Toll-Free Application Number Available for Those Affected in Virginia by Flooding.”*
- ❑ *“Disaster Recovery Center Opens in Bluefield, VA.”*
- ❑ *“What Happens After Calling FEMA.”*
- ❑ *“Disaster Recovery Centers Not a Mandatory Stop for Disaster Assistance.”*

ii. Other

- ❑ *Live in-studio interview with WHAJ-FM, a Top-40 station in Bluefield, WV.*
- ❑ *Met with FEMA field PIO at the DRC opening in Bluefield, VA. Interviewed with WDBJ-TV (Roanoke) and WVVA-TV (Bluefield, WV).*
- ❑ *Met with the following newspapers to talk about disaster assistance process: Bluefield Daily Telegraph, Tazewell County Free Press, Clinch Valley News, Richlands News Press and Bristol Herald Courier.*

F. Disaster Recovery Task Forces

- ❑ *Contacted officials in Bland County to schedule a meeting after the holidays to establish a Local Recovery Task Force.*
- ❑ *Will meet with interfaith agencies in Pearisburg on December 18 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Local Recovery Task Force in Giles County.*
- ❑ *Will meet with interfaith agencies in Galax on December 18 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Local Recovery Task Force in the city of Galax.*

G. Agriculture

- ❑ The USDA's Farm Service Agency has reported *no estimated crop losses* in Virginia due to flash floods. Preliminary property loss estimated at ***\$1,084,556***.

H. Resources

- ❑ The Disaster Coordination Center in Bluefield is supported daily by the Virginia Departments of:

Emergency Management	<i>5</i>
Conservation & Recreation	<i>1</i>
Social Services (at DRC)	<i>1</i>
Total (as of <i>December 16</i> , 2003)	<i>7</i>
- ❑ Disaster Field Office resources are reported on the Situation Report for FEMA-1491-DR-VA.

I. Commonwealth Situation Reports

- ❑ Situation reports are being prepared and distributed weekly on Tuesdays.
- ❑ The (Bluefield) Disaster Coordination Center's operational hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12 to 5 p.m. Sundays.
- ❑ The (Richmond) Disaster Field Office's operational hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Telephones are answered from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator

/s/ Harry E. Colestock III, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

Attachment 1 – Teleregistrations
As of COB December 15

Designated Jurisdictions	Daily On 12/15	Cumulative
Bland	4	30
Buchanan	0	11
Galax (city)	2	6
Giles	0	30
Smyth	2	31
Tazwell	15	153
Total	23	261

Undesignated Jurisdictions	Daily On 12/15	Cumulative
Carroll	0	1
Craig	0	1
Hanover	0	1
Henry	0	1
Lexington (City)	0	1
Newport News (City)	0	1
Prince Edwards	0	1
Spotsylvania	0	1
Total	0	8